Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of monitoring the functionability of a brake lining (10, 12), comprising the following steps:
measuring a value that characterizes the dielectric constant of the lining material;
comparing the measured value with a reference value for the new material; and
determining the functionability when the measured value is within a specific tolerance range.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the characteristic value of the dielectric constant is determined by a static capacitance measurement.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized by the further step of performing a conduction measurement.

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in one of claims 1 to ~~3~~ 2, characterized by the further step of providing a brake lining (10, 12) with at least two conductors (34, 36) located in the lining material.

5. (Original) A brake lining (10, 12) comprising at least two conductors (34, 36) arranged in the lining material in a way so that the conductors (34, 36) can be used to perform a capacitance measurement.

6. (Original) A brake lining (10, 12) as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the conductors (34, 36) are essentially arranged in a plane which is essentially parallel to the braking surface of the brake lining (10, 12).

7. (Original) A brake lining (10, 12) as claimed in claim 5 or 6, characterized in that the conductors (34, 36) are made of a foil material.

8. (Amended) A brake lining (10, 12) as claimed in one of claims 5 to ~~7~~ 6, characterized in that the conductors (34, 36) are imbedded in the brake lining material so that the latter is present on both sides [of the] of the conductors (34, 36) in the wear direction of the brake lining (10, 12).

9. (Original) A brake (2) comprising a brake lining monitoring device which is constructed so that it can determine the functionability of the brake lining (10, 12) on the basis of a change in the dielectric constant of the brake lining material.

10. (Amended) A brake (2) ~~as claimed in claim 9~~, comprising a brake lining monitoring device which is constructed so that it can determine the functionability of the brake lining (10, 12) on the basis of a change in the dielectric constant of the brake lining material, characterized by ~~a~~ the brake lining (10, 12) according to one of claims 5 to ~~8~~ 6.

11. (Original) A brake (2) as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the brake lining monitoring device comprises a resistance which, in conjunction with the capacitance emitted by the at least two conductors (34, 36) forms an oscillating circuit.

12. (Amended) An elevator installation comprising a brake (2) according to ~~one of~~ claims ~~9 to 11~~.

13. (New) An elevator installation comprising a brake (2) according to claim 10.